

WASHINGTON, DC—The week, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) shared a special visit with Barry Pinkowicz, of Aston, Pa., and his family in his office in Washington, D.C. The Pinkowicz family was invited to the Capital for an event to honor Barry's brother, Herb Pinkowicz, a volunteer firefighter who was killed in the line of duty while serving with the Aston-Beechwood Fire Company in 1986. The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation invited Barry and his family to attend the Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner in Washington, D.C., in Herb's honor. Congressman Sestak also helped arrange a Capitol and White House tour for Barry and his mother, Berniece, his wife, Janilyn, son, Ryan, and a friend of the family, Frank Walker.

"I am proud and humbled by this visit," said Congressman Sestak. "This is yet another reminder of the tremendous debt we owe to our volunteer first responders. The history of this country is a history of volunteerism—only through commitment to one another and dedication to our common welfare was the story of America possible. Volunteer firefighters give their time freely and ask nothing in return. They build their lives around selfless, courageous service to their community. They hold down jobs and raise families. They are students and retirees. But when duty calls they put their lives on hold—and risk their lives—for those in need. Herb Pinkowicz gave everything for his community, and for that we all owe him a measure of gratitude and are forever in his debt."

Congressman Sestak has worked hard to support the needs of first responders. During the Congressman's first term, numerous local municipalities received grants to help fund projects that benefit their communities. For instance, the Lafayette Ambulance and Rescue Squad received a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant; Upper Darby Township secured Department of Justice funding for their community Weed & Seed program; and, Delaware County received funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to aid in crime prevention and control. This year, the 7th District will receive more than \$785,000 in Byrne Grants through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or "stimulus bill," which the Congressman supported. Congressman Sestak also holds First Responder Grants Seminars to ensure that our emergency workers know how to secure the resources they need protect and care for our communities. To make the grants and appropriations process more accessible for First Responders and other constituents, Congressman Sestak has made the Second Edition of the Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District Grant and Resource Directory downloadable from his website to serve as an aid in searching for funding. It can be found at: <http://www.sestak.house.gov/services2.shtml>.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for

31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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